



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
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March 3, 2008

**RE: Laboratory Certification Office Policy on Microbiology Proficiency Testing
(Policy # WES-08.002)**

Dear Laboratory Director or Other Interested Party:

Enclosed is the updated Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Laboratory Certification Office (LCO) Policy on Microbiology Proficiency Testing (PT). This policy replaces Policy # WES-07.002.

This revised policy reflects the recent revision of the MassDEP Regulations for the *Certification and Operation of Environmental Analysis Laboratories* (310 CMR 42.00). The revised regulations expand microbiology certification to include additional drinking water source water categories, and categories in ambient water and wastewater in the non-potable water matrix. The revised PT policy details the PT requirements for laboratories seeking to maintain their current certification or to modify their certification to include additional microbiological categories.

The revised policy also includes the regulatory requirement to have available and retain all of the raw data and calculations for all PT analyses for a period of five years.

Laboratories using enzyme substrate methods (SM9223B) must specify the medium used (e.g., Colilert® or Colisure®).

The revised policy defines recent PT studies as those taking place within the last eighteen months.

Beginning January 1, 2008, laboratories seeking to maintain certification for fecal coliform in source water (SM9222D) and heterotrophic plate count need to participate annually in a proficiency test (PT) study consisting of a minimum of one enumerative sample rather than a minimum of three enumerative PT samples as required under the previous policy.

If you have any questions concerning this policy, please contact Ann Marie Allen, Director of the LCO, at 978-682-5237, ext. 333.

Sincerely,

Oscar C. Pancorbo, Ph.D.
Division and Station Director
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William X. Wall Experiment Station

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